

EVERETT MCKINLEY DIRKSEN
ILLINOIS

COPY

UNITED STATES SENATE
MINORITY LEADER

September 20, 1962

The Honorable Dean Rusk
The Secretary of State
Washington 25, D. C.

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Dirksen
FILE

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I enclose a copy of a letter which has been circulated in Germany by one Curtis J. Hoxter of New York, excerpts from which have been used in the German press to attack the Republican political background of a distinguished Illinois constituent, General Julius Klein (Rtd.) of Chicago.

I know General Klein intimately and have known him for many years. He had an outstanding war record. He has filled important assignments for the late Senators Taft and Bridges and others. It seems singular that the State Department and the White House were allegedly quoted by Mr. Hoxter and I was glad to hear from General Kenneth Buchanan, one of General Klein's associates, who met with officials at the German desk in State, that the Hoxter statements were repudiated as distortions.

I can say further for General Klein that he has always pursued a bipartisan foreign policy substantially like my own and has been ready and willing at all times to serve the interests of our country abroad.

The Hoxter matter is quite serious because of the quotations which have appeared in a number of outstanding German publications. In addition, he brings in the racial and religious angle because of General Klein's long friendship with Senator Javits.

It would appear to me before this matter goes any further that State might well take the following constructive steps in order to mitigate the damage already done and to prevent any further injustices; namely, (1) that your Security Division investigate the matter thoroughly, (2) that the German Embassy in Washington and the Foreign Office in Bonn, Germany be briefed to correct any erroneous impression, and (3) that the Department supply General Klein with a statement which repudiates the Hoxter charges which have been quoted in the German press.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Pierre Salinger at the White House. I would truly appreciate your cooperation.

I am

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I am enclosing a personal and confidential memorandum initialed by Curtis J. Hoxter of Curtis J. Hoxter Inc., 527 Madison Avenue, New York, New York.

Sincerely,

/s/ Everett M. Dirksen

Everett McKinley Dirksen

Enclosure

COPY

Note to the researcher:

Gaps in the re-typed letter were illegible in the original version./

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CONFIDENTIAL AND PERSONAL

A relatively minor side-issue of the current disagreements between official Washington and Bonn, which carries particular importance because of the implications the White House is placing on it, is the role played "in behalf of pretty influential German leaders" by Major General (ret.) Julius Klein. Senior members of the German press corps stationed in Washington have voiced their specific complaints and objections to the most recent activities of General Klein. It appeared from these reactions that General Klein has always been considered a particular "thorn" in the side of the present incumbents in Washington, although they insist that they never placed any significance in the General's (influence?) or importance. What apparently triggered the current circulation of information throughout Washington which apparently stemmed from Mr. Klein's own initiative, that he and his organization are responsible for the opposition among certain Congressmen and Senators - and it is a limited one - to the intent Berlin policy moves. There is ample evidence in Washington that General Klein is taking specific credit for the statements on the floor of the Senate by Republican Senators Javits, Keating and Scott in opposition to the official Administration moves - made at the time that former German Foreign Minister Dr. Heinrich von Brentano was visiting Washington. The actual reaction from the Kennedy Administration can be summed up in this paragraph taken from our "analysis-in-depth" by a commentator known to be close to Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

But the bitter talk coming out of Bonn the past weeks about the Americans being ready to sell out their German allies has had its affect in Washington. Konrad Heinrich von Brentano former West German Foreign Minister and now Christian Democratic leader of the Bundestag, did not help matters when he arrived in the midst of the hullabaloo. With the help of a Chicago public relations firm Brentano persuaded a number of Republican Senators to word into the record speeches questioning the President's steadfastness on Berlin.

It is indicated that although the German Embassy in Washington dis-claims all contact with General Klein the latter has reportedly informed members of the Congress, members of the press, and even certain U. S. Government officials that all his activities on the Berlin question in Washington are carried out "in behalf of the German Government, the German business community and the Christian Democratic Party." In some instances the General has charged publicly that members of the German Embassy in Washington, all known to be loyal to the Adenauer concept, are favoring the Socialist Party. It is important to note that the indication that General Klein is acting for official German Sources or prominent German non-official interests has been apparent in Washington for some time, mainly, as it turned out last week, circulated by deliberate action of Mr. Klein himself.

What is upsetting to the White House and the Department of State is that the German official and unofficial quarters permit the General to roam freely in Washington in lobbying activities which are undermining much more than "Mere relations between Bonn and Washington." Rather, the point is made that the entire delicate fabric of the East-West posture is being put at stake. The U. S. Government officials realize that lobbying and influencing of public opinion is a basic by-product of democracy in action. Where they differ is that the activities of General Klein appear to reflect a determination of the Federal Republic to deliberately aggravate the relations between Bonn and Washington. The need of the moment; these sources argue with real vehemency, is to find areas of collaboration, not to pinpoint sore spots. The role of General Klein has one sided point of aggravation for official Washington: They buy "supporters" and proponents of General Klein in the Congress are the right-wing republicans with a sprinkling of a few liberal Republicans. The relationship with Senator

Jacob W. Javits, Republican from New York, seems to be one of mutual admiration and goes back to the original appointment of Mr. Javits on the political scene. It was indicated, too, from the Senator's office, that the Jewish organizational background may have a lot to do with the continuing contact. It was Mr. Javits who, in turn, mobilized the views of Senators Keating and Scott during the stay of Dr. Brentano in Washington. General Klein has hardly any contacts with Democratic members of the House or the Senate, with the possible exception of those from his home state of Illinois. Even his relationship of long-standing with Assistant Majority Leader, Senator Hubert Humphrey, according to private information from the Senate, has cooled due to the General's presumptuousness.

The present attitude in the White House and the Department of State towards the activities of General Klein is one of distinct animosity. But the complaints are not so much directed against the General as against "those that employ him for his current tasks." The Government officials point to the freedom of expression in this country, although they feel strongly that the national interest of both the United States and the Federal Republic may be undermined by it all. To repeat, the White House and the State Department are of the opinion that the "investigation by General Klein into rightful matters of the two Governments" is done deliberately on instructions of the Adenauer regime, and maybe the Chancellor himself, and the German industry. To this must be added that not one or two German companies, but the entirety of German industry is being blamed for these Klein activities.

At this time General Klein has let it be known in influential circles in Washington that the appointment of E. Heinrich Koppstein as successor

to Ambassador Grewe was "of his (Klein's) doing." State
between General Klein and his organization are certainly
not on a cordial basis, the conclusion must be formed that the interests of the
German Government and the German public are certainly the
point whether improvements stage of
aggravation.

White House and State Department much more lenient
and objective attitude of good will between Bonn
and Washington, but the Klein postpone this
potential of agreement.

C.J.H.
3/29/63

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